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July 30, 2021

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

I am writing to follow up on my previous letter, from March 19 of this year, regarding the continued obstacles faced by far too many Pennsylvanians in obtaining federal rental relief.

Due to a combination of factors—notably an excessively restrictive eligibility criteria, as well as the active efforts by the Pennsylvania General Assembly to redirect aid to the Commonwealth's Department of Corrections and elsewhere—the vast majority of the first round of federal rental assistance did not go into the hands of Pennsylvanian renters and small landlords. In light of this fact, I wrote to you in March determined to do everything within my power to ensure that the second round of rental relief swiftly and efficiently reached its intended beneficiaries.

While I appreciate your review of the Commonwealth's eligibility criteria for the second round of the program and your work to streamline the process more broadly, I am deeply concerned by recent reporting from *Spotlight PA* that only around 17% of the second round of rental relief has been delivered so far. For tenants and struggling small landlords alike, rental assistance represents a crucial stream of potential income to stay afloat.

According to the same reporting cited above, as of the end of last month, only 17,500 current Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) applications had been approved, while at least 44,000 applications from across the Commonwealth had not been processed.

In light of these challenges, I urge you to convene a Task Force comprised of county officials, tenant advocates, small landlords, non-profit community organization representatives, and other relevant stakeholders to focus on eliminating administrative delays at both the county and state level, expediting delivery of relief, and building consensus on affordable housing solutions that meet the needs of renters and struggling landlords alike.

Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership during this challenging time. I look forward to continuing to work with you to meet Pennsylvanians' housing needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Wild". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a stylized "W".

Susan Wild
Member of Congress